

HOUSE No. 156

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Barbara A. L'Italien

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing a pilot program for adults with Asperger Syndrome and Autism.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Barbara A. L'Italien	18th Essex
Stephen L. DiNatale	3rd Worcester
Robert L. Rice, Jr.	2nd Worcester
Ellen Story	3rd Hampshire
Brian A. Joyce	Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth
William N. Brownsberger	24th Middlesex
Todd M. Smola	1st Hampden
John J. Binienda	17th Worcester
Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.	12th Hampden
Christine E. Canavan	10th Plymouth
David B. Sullivan	6th Bristol
Stephen R. Canessa	12th Bristol
Carlo P. Basile	1st Suffolk
Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera	10th Hampden
Thomas M. Stanley	9th Middlesex
Anne M. Gobi	5th Worcester
Robert S. Hargraves	1st Middlesex
Robert L. Rice, Jr.	2nd Worcester
Brian P. Wallace	4th Suffolk

John V. Fernandes	10th Worcester
Thomas P. Conroy	13th Middlesex
Allen J. McCarthy	7th Plymouth
Jennifer M. Callahan	18th Worcester
David P. Linsky	5th Middlesex
Colleen M. Garry	36th Middlesex
Thomas P. Kennedy	Second Plymouth and Bristol
Michael F. Rush	10th Suffolk
Richard J. Ross	9th Norfolk
Steven A. Tolman	Second Suffolk and Middlesex
Robert F. Fennell	10th Essex
Sarah K. Peake	4th Barnstable
Kevin G. Honan	17th Suffolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3838 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR ADULTS WITH ASPERGER SYNDROME AND AUTISM.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority
of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 6 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended, by inserting after section 78A, the following section:-

3 Section 78B. The commissioner of the Massachusetts rehabilitation commission shall establish a 2 year
4 pilot program for 25 adults with Asperger's syndrome or other autism spectrum disorders without mental
5 retardation.

6 The commission will establish an advisory board of community professionals, including a consumer with
7 Asperger's syndrome, a representative from the Asperger's Association of New England, a state
8 representative, a state senator and commission staff to advise and evaluate and provide technical
9 assistance to the project. The advisory board shall meet quarterly.

10 The program shall provide services which lead to paid, customized, sustainable employment. Services
11 will include post-employment and re-employment support as needed. The program will supplement
12 existing commission funding for individuals with Asperger's syndrome. These supports may include but
13 are not limited to: career assessment and counseling; job development; job placement; job coaching;
14 employment training; on-the-job support; case management and funding to purchase adjunct supports and
15 services.

16 A request for proposals for this program shall be issued within 60 days of the enactment. Within one year
17 of the program start a preliminary outcome report with future recommendations shall be presented to the
18 clerk of the House of Representatives. A final report at the end of the 2 year pilot shall be submitted with
19 recommendations for sustainability, replication and modifications.